

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 11468 01 OF 02 070929Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
HA-05 /071 W  
-----035166 071016Z /20  
P R 070835Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9736  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 11468

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: FR, UR  
SUBJECT: LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM LEONID PLUSHCH

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM EXILED SOVIET DISSIDENT LEONID PLUSHCH, WHO NOW LIVES IN NANTERRE, A PARIS SUBURB. THIS LETTER (TEXT TRANSMITTED BELOW) IS DATED FEBRUARY 16. IT WAS MAILED DIRECT TO THE WHITE HOUSE BY REGISTERED MAIL ON FEBRUARY 18 FROM MUNICH. THE WHITE HOUSE REFERRED IT ROUTINELY TO STATE ON FEBRUARY 22 FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE APPROPRIATE POST. STATE SENT IT BY POUCH TO EMBASSY BONN (EVIDENTLY BECAUSE OF THE MUNICH POSTMARK, ALTHOUGH THE RETURN ADDRESS IS IN FRANCE.) EMBASSY BONN SENT IT TO PARIS BY REGULAR MAIL ON MARCH 29, AND WE RECEIVED IT ON APRIL 4.

2. WE BELIEVE THE CONTENT OF THE LETTER, AND THE IDENTITY OF ITS AUTHOR, INDICATE THAT A COURTEOUS REPLY IS REQUIRED, AND WE WISH TO AVOID ANY FURTHER DELAY IN SENDING ONE. ACCORDINGLY, WE PROPOSE TO SEND PLUSHCH A REPLY SIGNED BY THE AMBASSADOR (PROPOSED TEXT TRANSMITTED BWLOW), AND WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE OR OTHER IN-  
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STRUCTIONS ASAP.

3. TEXT OF PLUSHCH LETTER FOLLOWS (REPRODUCED AS RECEIVED):

LEONID PLUSHCH  
6-8 RUE BRANLY

9200 NANTERRE, FRANCE

FEB. 16, 1978

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MR. PRESIDENT:

AS AN EXILED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UKRAINIAN  
HELSINKI GROUP I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU AND ALL THOSE  
AMERICANS WHO SUPPORT OUR STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN  
THE ENTIRE WORLD. THIS STRUGGLE ALSO AIMS AT A  
DETENTE WHICH WILL SERVE TO BRING TOGETHER NATIONS AND  
NOT BECOME A WEAPON FOR IMPOSING TOTALITARIANISM.

I WOULD LIKE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION, IN PARTICULAR,  
TO EXTREME VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UKRAINE  
WHERE THE POLICY IS TO DESTROY THE NATIONAL CULTURE  
AND THE RIGHT FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL.

MYKOLA RUDENKO AND OLEKSA TYCHYJ, MEMBERS OF THE  
UKRAINIAN HELSINKI GROUP, HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO VERY  
SEVERE TERMS IN COMPARISON WITH MEMBERS OF THE MOSCOW  
HELSINKI GROUP. TYCHYJ HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO TEN  
YEARS HARD LABOR AND FIVE YEARS EXILE, RUDENKO TO SEVEN  
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YEARS HARD LABOR AND FIVE YEARS EXILE. OTHER MEMBERS  
OF THE UKRAINIAN HELSINKI GROUP WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED  
ARE: MYKOLA MATUSEVWCH, MYROSLAV MARYNOVYCH, OLES  
BERDNYK, LEV LUKIJANENKO. STILL OTHERS HAVE SUFFERED  
VARIOUS FORMS OF REPRESSION. IT MIGHT STILL BE POS-  
SIBLE TO SAVE THESE PEOPLE IF PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS ACTIVELY DEFEND THEM.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE  
FACT THAT UKRAINIANS ACTIVE IN THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS DO NOT HAVE THE POSSIBILITY TO EMIGRATE AL-  
THOUGH THEIR RUSSIAN COUNTERPARTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO  
SO\* I AM THE ONLY EXCEPTION THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF  
VARIOUS WORKER'S UNIONS, MATHEMATICIANS AND PSYCHI-  
ATRISTS WHO DEMANDED MY RELEASE. THIS FACT IS FURTHER  
PROOF OF A CALCULATED AND SYSTEMATIC EFFORT OF THE  
KREML TO DESTROY THE UKRAINE AS A NATION. THIS TASK  
IS MADE SIMPLER FOR MOSKOW SINCE THE WEST TENDS TO  
IGNORE THE "NATIONALITIES" QUESTION IN THE USSR. THE

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-----035071 071107Z /20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9737  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 11468

UKRAINE, A FORMAL MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, HAS  
NEITHER AN EMBASSY NOR A PRESS ATTACHE ON ITS TERRITORY.  
DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE WEST IS, THEREFORE, IMPOSSIBLE.  
ALL CHANNELS OF INFORMATION ARE VIA MOSKOW, WHICH  
MAKES SURE THAT POLITICAL REPRESSION IN THE UKRAINE  
REMAINS LARGELY UNKNOWN.

THREE MEMBERS OF THE UKRAINIAN HELSINKI GROUP  
ARE DEMANDING THE RIGHT TO EMIGRATE TO THE UNITED  
STATES OR CANADA. 1). NINA STOKATA-KARAVANSKA, WHOSE  
HUSBAND SVJATOSLAV KARAVANSKYJ IS STILL SERVING. SHE  
HAS ALREADY SERVED A TERM FOR PROTESTING THE SENTEN-  
CING OF HER HUSBAND. 2). IVAN KANDYBA, WHO HAS SERVED  
A FIFTEEN YEAR SENTENCE ON TRUMPED UP CHARGES. 3).  
PETRO VINS, WHOSE FATHER HEORHIJ VINS WAS THE  
HEAD OF THE SOVIET BAPTIST CHURCH UNTILL HIS ARREST  
AND IMPRISONMENT. PETER VINS, HIS MOTHER AND GRAND-  
MOTHER HAVE REPEATEDLY RECEIVED OFFICIAL INVITATIONS  
FROM RELATIVES IN CANADA TO EMIGRATE. IF THEY ARE NOT  
GRANTED PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE WE CAN BE SURE THAT THEY,  
IN TURN, WILL BE DETAINED AND SENTENCED.

IT IS MY STRONG CONVICTION THAT THE FATE OF THE  
MEMBERS OF VARIOUS HELSINKI GROUPS IS AN INDICATION  
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OF THE INTEGRITY AND TRUE WOTH OF DETENTE IN HELSINKI

AND BELGRAD, THE INTEGRITY OF BOTH THE SOVIET UNION  
AND THE WEST. THE DEFENSE OF THE MEMBERS OF HELSINKY  
GROUPS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR THESE REASONS. I  
TURN TO YOU AS A CHRISTIAN WITH THE PLEA TO SUPPORT  
THESE PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE TO UPHOLD THE HELSINKI  
AGREEMENTS.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,  
/S/ LEONID PLUSHCH

END TEXT OF PLUSHCH LETTER.

4. TEXT OF PROPOSED REPLY IS AS FOLLOWS:

DEAR MR. PLUSHCH:

PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ASKED ME TO THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 16, CALLING HIS ATTENTION TO  
THE PLIGHT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE UKRAINIAN HELSINKI  
GROUP, AND PROVIDING INFORMATION ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL  
SITUATIONS.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY  
CONCERNED WITH THE WELL-BEING OF ALL THOSE WHO, IN THE  
SOVIET UNION AND ELSEWHERE, HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED  
SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY FAVOR APPLICATION OF THE HELSINKI  
ACCORD. WE WILL CONTINUE TO CALL ATTENTION TO THEIR  
SITUATIONS, AND TOW WORK TOWARD THE FULL RESPECT OF THE  
PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE HELSINKI DOCUMENT.

SINCERELY,  
ARTHUR A. HARTMAN

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END TEXT OF PROPOSED LETTER.  
HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 apr 1978  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM LEONID PLUSHCH  
**TAGS:** SHUM, FR, UR, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (PLUSHCH, LEONID)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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